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Balance of Payments, Australia

Page tools:

NAME OF ORGANISATION

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

OVERVIEW

The balance of payments provide a systematic record of economic transactions between residents of Australia and residents of the rest of the world. The balance of payments are compiled from a range of ABS and other agency surveys, administrative data and special data sets.

PURPOSE

To provide statistics and related information on Australia's balance of payments and international economic transactions to assist:

- economic analysts and policy advisers to monitor, evaluate and forecast developments in Australia's external sector accounts for purposes of domestic and international macro-economic analysis and policy determination; and
- governments, government agencies, businesses, industry associations, research institutions and other users to analyse particular types of transactions and financial claims between Australian residents and non-residents, for purposes such as trade promotion and negotiations, market and industry performance studies, etc.

SCOPE

Scope and coverage include all Australian resident units engaged in transactions with non-residents as defined by the "System of National Accounts" (1993) and the "Balance of Payments Manual" (fifth edition, 1993).

DATA DETAIL

Conceptual framework

The conceptual framework used in Australia's Balance of Payment is the framework provided by the International Monetary Fund's "Balance of Payments Manual" (fifth edition, 1993) . The ABS publication "Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia (Catalogue Number 5331.0)" describes the conceptual framework of Australia's balance of payments statistics and the data sources and methods used to compile them.

The Australian balance of payments is a statistical statement designed to provide a systematic record of Australia's economic transactions with the rest of the world. It may be described as a system of consolidated accounts in which the accounting entity is the Australian economy and the entries mostly refer to economic transactions between residents of Australia and residents of the rest of the world (non-residents).

Until the June quarter 1997 reference period, these statistics were compiled in accordance with the Fourth Edition of the International Monetary Fund's Balance of Payments Manual (BPM4). From the September quarter 1997 reference period, these data are compiled by the ABS in accordance with the Fifth Edition of that manual (BPM5) which was published in 1993.

Adoption of the BPM5 standards for all issues from the September quarter 1997 onwards saw changes to the basis of compilation to more fully reflect the requirements of the new standards. For more information about the nature of the changes made to introduce the new IMF standard see the ABS Information Paper: Implementing New International Statistical Standards in ABS International Accounts Statistics (5364.0). For an assessment of the impact of the changes see the ABS Information Paper: Upgraded Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Statistics (5365.0).

The balance of payments accounts, which present systematically the economic transactions between Australia and the rest of the world, incorporate four types of economic transactions. The first involves the provision of real resources, i.e. transactions in goods, services and income. The second involves the provision of financial resources, i.e. foreign financial assets and liabilities. The third covers those one sided transactions of a current nature (described as current transfers) that are offsets to transactions in current real or financial resources that are undertaken without an exchange. For example, famine relief,

whether in cash or in kind, would have its offset in current transfers. The fourth type is capital transfers that offset transactions which are undertaken, without exchange, in fixed assets or in their financing (such as development aid). For example, migrants' funds represent the shift of the migrants' net worth to or from Australia, and are classified as capital transfers.

The first and third of these types of transactions comprise the current account, while the second type comprises the financial account. The fourth type (capital transfers), together with a minor item for the acquisition and disposal of non-produced, non-financial assets (such as patents), comprises the capital account.

The double entry accounting system is used for recording balance of payments transactions. Under this system, credit entries, which are shown with no arithmetic sign, are used to record the provision of real or financial resources. The credit entries are therefore required for exports of goods and services, and for income earned by residents (a return for providing the use of financial capital to non-residents, or for providing the labour of Australian residents). Credit entries are also required for providing financial resources to the rest of the world, either as new liabilities (such as issuing bonds), or through returning existing assets (such as selling foreign equity securities to non-residents). Therefore, any credit entry in the financial account will reflect either an increase in Australia's foreign liabilities (more foreign debt or foreign ownership), or a decrease in Australia's foreign financial assets (such as a rundown in foreign exchange reserves).

Conversely, debit entries, which are identified by a minus sign (-), are used to record the provision by the rest of the world of real or financial resources to Australia, and are shown against imports of goods and services, income earned from Australia by non-residents, and financial transactions involving either an increase in foreign financial assets or a decrease in foreign liabilities.

Transactions in a double entry accounting system are reflected in pairs of equal credit and debit entries. For example, an export transaction for which payment is received through the banking system involves a credit entry for providing the good to a non-resident and a debit entry for being provided with foreign exchange assets due as payment for the export. Any entries that are not automatically paired in a transaction, i.e. for which there is no 'quid pro quo', are matched by special offsetting entries. Such offsetting

entries are made in the categories 'current transfers' (when offsetting the provision of current resources such as food for famine relief) and 'capital transfers' (when offsetting the provision of capital resources such as development aid to build a new dam).

In principle, the net sum of all credit and debit entries is zero. In practice, some transactions are not measured accurately (errors), while others are not measured at all (omissions). Equality between the sums of the credit and debit entries is then brought about by the inclusion of a 'net errors and omissions' item which balances the accounts.

Transactions and other changes should be valued in the balance of payments at market prices. However, for practical reasons, transactions are generally valued in the statistics at transaction prices as this basis provides the closest practical approximation to the market price principle.

Transactions and other changes recorded in the balance of payments should be recorded at the time of change of ownership (either actual or imputed). For current account transactions, this occurs when ownership of goods changes, or services are provided. Investment income is recorded on a full accrual basis, that is, when it is earned. Reinvested earnings are calculated for the earnings of the period of account, using current replacement cost estimates of depreciation and excluding holding gains and losses. Current and capital transfers should be recorded when the goods, services, cash, etc., to which they are offsets, change ownership. Those transfers, such as taxes and fines, which are imposed by one party on another, should ideally be recorded at the time of the occurrence of the underlying transactions or other flows or events that give rise to the liability to pay. For the financial account transactions, the time of recording is at the change of ownership of the financial claims, which by convention is the time at which transactions are entered in the books of the transactors.

In practice, the nature of the available data sources is such that the time of recording of transactions will often differ from the time of change of ownership. Where practical, timing adjustments are made for transactions in certain goods to ensure that they are recorded in the time period in which change of ownership occurs.

Main outputs

5368.0 International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia
(monthly)

5302.0 Balance of Payments and International Investment Position,
Australia (quarterly)

5363.0 Balance of Payments and International Investment Position,
Australia (annual) - discontinued (final edition 1999-2000)

5338.0 Balance of Payments, Australia : Regional Series (annual)

5352.0 International Investment Position, Australia : Supplementary
Country Statistics (annual)

Classifications

The classifications for the presentation of Australia's balance of payments are shown in the various international standards adopted for their compilation, including the IMFs BPM5 and the OECD-Eurostat Classification of Trade in Services. For details of their application in the Australian context see 5364.0 and 5365.0. For details of the commodity details used to extend the standard general merchandise classification see 1361.0.

The concepts and classifications are also shown in Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia (Cat no. 5331.0) - Concepts Sources and Methods 1998 edition
- Chapter 3.

Other concepts (summary)

GEOGRAPHIC DETAIL

Australia

Comments and/or Other Regions

For many years Australia has published its balance of payments statistics not only on a global basis but also on selected country and regional bases (classification by country partner). Such statements are published annually in accordance with international guidelines.

COLLECTION FREQUENCY

Quarterly

Frequency comments

A monthly subset of data on international trade in goods and services is published, and annually some extra detail is also released.

COLLECTION HISTORY

Annual estimates were first published in 1931. Annual data are currently available from 1945-46. Quarterly balance of payments estimates were first published in January 1964. These data are available from the September quarter 1959. Seasonally adjusted estimates were published for the first time in Australia with the September quarter 1974 issue. Monthly international trade in goods and services data are available from July 1971.

DATA AVAILABILITY

Yes

Data availability comments

See under **Main Outputs**.

Data is also available on Ausstats.

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Balancing Work and Caring Responsibilities, Tasmania

Page tools:

NAME OF ORGANISATION

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

OVERVIEW

The object of the survey is to accurately ascertain how Tasmanians balance their workplace and caring responsibilities, to gain a better understanding of the challenges the burden of these dual roles create.

PURPOSE

The information gathered will act as a basis for future workplace reform and consultation, by identifying problems that arise when caring responsibilities and those of the workplace compete to be met. Key components include;

- Measurement of how demanding balancing workplace and caring responsibilities are in terms of satisfying work schedules and the time required to fulfill caring responsibilities.
- An assesment of the level of burden associated with competing duties at the work place and home by ascertaining the nature of compromises made by workers in terms of their employment in order to fulfill their caring responsibilities, such as reducing their hours of work or refusing promotion.
- The identification of the relationships between carers and those for whom they provide this care.
- The above will inform an estimate of the amount and form of caring responsibilities placed on workers.
- The identification of the strategies that are utilised by workers to

deal with competing duties such as paid and unpaid leave, and whether these arrangements are formal or informal .

- A component to ascertain workers perceptions of how their caring responsibilities are regarded in the workplace.

SCOPE

The Balancing Work and Caring Responsibilities (BWCR) Survey was conducted as supplementary to the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). For the BWCR Survey, all usual residents of private dwellings aged 15 years and over were in scope with second phase samples selected from LFS sample units representing sub-populations of:

- wage and salary earners;
- self-employed persons; and
- persons not employed who had cared for another person during Jul, Aug and Sept 1999.

Special dwellings and visitors to private dwellings were not in scope. Normal Labour Force exclusions apply to scope and coverage, for example:

- members of the permanent defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations;
- overseas residents in Australia;
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia; and
- Jervis Bay Territory.

Coverage

In the Labour Force Survey, coverage rules are applied that aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection. The chance of a person being enumerated at two separate dwellings in the one survey is considered to be negligible

DATA DETAIL

Conceptual framework

As the data was collected as supplementary to the Monthly Labour Force Survey, some data can be cross-classified with data from that Labour Force Survey. For example:

- Age;
- Sex;
- Employment status; and,

- Full-time/part-time employment status.

Main outputs

Results from the survey will be available in a publication (Balancing Work and Caring Responsibilities, Tasmania, ABS Cat No. 4903.6) as well as in additional user tables. In some cases, additional unpublished cross-classifications of data items will be available.

Some important populations available from this survey include:

- All Tasmanians aged 15 or more living in private dwellings (Persons [aged 15 or more]);
- Persons [aged 15 or more] who are employed;
- Persons [aged 15 or more] who are wage/salary earners;
- Persons [aged 15 or more] who are self-employed
- Persons [aged 15 or more] who are not working;
- Persons [aged 15 or more] who are not working and have caring responsibilities;
- Persons [aged 15 or more] who are employed and have caring responsibilities;
- Persons [aged 15 or more] who are not in the labour force and have caring responsibilities; and
- Persons [aged 15 or more] who have caring responsibilities;

Classifications

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) data items include:

- Sex;
- Age;
- Marital status;
- Country of birth (for Tasmania generally Aust, NZ, UK and Eire, Other Europe, Asia, and Other);
- Labour Force Status (employed/unemployed/not in the labour force);
- Employed status for employed persons (full-time/part- time);
- Labour force dissemination regions (Greater Hobart and Southern Stat Div, Northern Stat Div and Mersey-Lyell Stat Div);
- Household Type;
- Current school attendance for 18-24 yr olds (whether at school or full-time attendance at University or TAFE);
- Number of children present in the household.
- Industry of employed persons

Other concepts (summary)

not applicable

GEOGRAPHIC DETAIL

Tasmania

Statistical Division

Comments and/or Other Regions

not applicable

COLLECTION FREQUENCY

Once Only

Frequency comments

not applicable

COLLECTION HISTORY

Not applicable. This is a once-only survey.

DATA AVAILABILITY

Yes

Data availability comments

not applicable

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Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation

Page tools:

NAME OF ORGANISATION

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

OVERVIEW

The Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation survey collects information about people aged 18 years and over who are either not employed or work very few hours (0–15 hours). The data collected provides information on the potential labour force and the characteristics of that potential labour force. Data from this survey are used to obtain a better understanding of the factors that influence people to join or leave the labour force. By knowing the barriers to joining the labour force or taking up (more) employment a range of incentives to labour force participation can be indirectly identified.

PURPOSE

Data from the survey are relevant to a wide range of policies and programs, including trends in factors that influence people to join or leave the labour force, characteristics of potential labour force, income (personal and household), educational attainment and working hours. Information on barriers and incentives of work will be used to facilitate a better understanding of these issues and to support decision making and policy development in this area.

SCOPE

This survey is conducted as part of the Monthly Population Survey, which comprises the Labour Force Survey and, in most months, a supplementary survey topic.

SCOPE -- Labour Force Survey

The Labour Force Survey includes all usual residents of Australia aged 15 and over except:

- members of the permanent defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations;
- overseas residents in Australia; and
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

From July 1993 Jervis Bay Territory is also excluded from the scope of the survey. Before July 1993 it was included in estimates for the Australian Capital Territory.

SCOPE - MPHS

In addition to those already excluded from the Labour Force Survey, the following persons are excluded from MPHS:

- persons living in private dwellings in very remote part of Australia;
- people under the age of 18 years
- people living in non-private dwellings such as hotels, university residences, students at boarding school pupils, patients in hospitals, residents of homes (eg retirement homes, homes for people with disabilities), and inmates of prisons
- visitors to private dwellings.

COVERAGE - Labour Force Survey

Coverage rules are applied to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection. The chance of a person being enumerated at two separate dwellings in the one survey is considered to be negligible. Persons who are away from their usual residence for six weeks or less at the time of interview are enumerated at their usual residence (relevant information may be obtained from other usual residents present at the time of the survey).

DATA DETAIL

Conceptual framework

Data from the survey relate to people aged 18 years and over. The

main populations of interest are people who are not employed (i.e. either unemployed or not in the labour force), and people who usually work 15 hours a week or less in all jobs. People who are not employed or who work few hours (15 hours a week or less in all jobs) during the week prior to interview, are asked about all factors that influence them to join or leave the labour force.

Main outputs

Data from the survey are published in [Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6239.0). An expanded Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) will be made available from the 2004–05 MPHS via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL). Other estimates are available on request.

22.1.5 Data from the survey relate to people aged 18 years and over. The main populations of interest are people who are not employed (i.e. either unemployed or not in the labour force), and people who usually work 15 hours a week or less in all jobs. Estimates are produced on an original basis only (i.e. not seasonally adjusted) and include:

Socio-demographic information	Sex, age, marital status, relationship in household, whether household has children aged under 15 years, state or territory of usual residence, country of birth and period of arrival in Australia, education (e.g. level of highest non school qualifications) and income (e.g. weekly gross income, sources of income, partner's income and household income). Hours usually worked in all jobs, status in
People who usually work 0-15 hours per week in all jobs	employment (i.e. employee, employer, own account worker or contributing family worker), full time or part-time status, details of current main job (e.g. hours usually worked, occupation, industry, duration), time since last full-time job, details of last full-time job, reason for ceasing last full-time job, unpaid activities when not working, whether prefers to work more hours than usually works, preferred number of hours, all reasons for not wanting to work more hours, whether looking for more hours, whether looking for part-time or full-time work, all reasons for not looking for more hours, main reason for not looking for more hours, main reason not available for more hours and difficulties finding more hours.

Unemployed people	Duration of current period of unemployment, unpaid activities, difficulties finding work, whether has ever worked and previous job details (e.g. whether has ever had a full-time job, whether previous work was full-time or part-time, time since last job, employment type of last job, occupation and industry of last job, reason for ceasing last job).
People who aren't in the labour force	Whether would like a paid job, whether would prefer to work full-time or part-time, preferred length/tenure of job, whether would accept a short-term/temporary job, whether available to start work in the reference week, time until available to start work, main reason not available to start work, main child-care reason not available to start work, all reasons for not wanting to work, whether looking for work and difficulties finding work.

Classifications

Demographics: State, Area, Region, Sex, Marital Status, Relationship in Household, Period of Arrival and Age

Country of Birth: The Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC)

Occupation: Australian Standard Classification of Occupations Second Edition (ASCO SE)

Industry: Australia and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC)

Education: Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)

Other concepts (summary)

Descriptions of the underlying concepts and structure of Australia's labour force statistics, and the sources and methods used in compiling these estimates, are presented in Labour statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.66.001)

GEOGRAPHIC DETAIL

Australia

New South Wales

Victoria

Queensland

South Australia

Western Australia

Tasmania

Northern Territory

ACT

Part of State Metropolitan

Part of State Extra-Metropolitan

Comments and/or Other Regions

Very remote areas

COLLECTION FREQUENCY

2 Yearly

Frequency comments

COLLECTION HISTORY

The Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation topic was first conducted in 2004-05 (run from August 2004 to June 2005) as part of the Multi-Purpose Household Survey (MPHS) which is a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey. This topic will be included in the MPHS every two years. Future MPHS' will run over the full financial year.

Data from the survey are published in Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Australia (cat. no. 6239.0).

DATA AVAILABILITY

Yes

Data availability comments

Publication *Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Australia* (ABS cat. no. 6239.0).

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Births

Page tools:

NAME OF ORGANISATION

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

OVERVIEW

The responsibility for registration of births in Australia lies with individual state and territory Registrars of Births, Deaths and Marriages. A Birth Registration Statement is completed by at least one of the parents of a baby. This information is the basis of the data provided to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for processing and production of birth statistics. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is the central statistical authority for the Australian Government and, under the Government-to-Government arrangements entered into with the states pursuant to the Statistics (Arrangements with States) Act 1956, provides statistical services for state and territory governments.

Births data is supplied to the ABS, on a monthly basis and in electronic format, from each of the Registrars. Processing of this data is carried out by the Health and Vitals Statistics Unit (HVSU), located in the Queensland Office of the ABS. The systems used to collect and process the data are constantly being reviewed and developed in order to make the most effective use of technology.

PURPOSE

ABS birth statistics are based on events registered in respective jurisdictions, with information provided by the state and territory Registrars of Births, Death and Marriages

(RBDM). Australian birth statistics a component in the production of quarterly estimates of natural increase as a component of population change in the calculation of population estimates. Birth statistics are also used in the analysis of fertility in Australia. Trends in fertility are used in the development of assumptions on future levels of fertility and mortality for population projections. The primary uses of Australian population estimates are in the determination of seats in the House of Representatives for each state and territory, as well as in distribution of Australian Government funds to state, territory and local governments. Population estimates are also used for a wide range of government, business and community decisions, both directly and indirectly, by contributing to a range of other social and economic indicators.

SCOPE

Scope and Coverage

The implementation of new scope rules occurred with respect of the 2007 data.

Ideally, for compiling annual time series, the number of events (births) should be recorded and reported as all those occurring within a given reference period such as a calendar year. However, due to lags in registration of events and the provision of that information to the ABS, this ideal is unlikely to be met under the current legislation and Registration business processes. As the actual vital event being accounted for is usually the addition of the event on a State/Territory register of deaths, the occurrence event is being approximated by the event being registered. Also, some additions to the register can be delayed in being received by the ABS from the Registrar (processing or data transfer lags).

In effect there are 3 dates attributable to each birth registration:

- The date of occurrence (of the birth),
- The date of registration or inclusion on the State/Territory register
- The month in which the registered event is lodged with the ABS.

Up to and including the 2006 reference year, the following business rules were used by the ABS to determine the scope of the births collection for any given reference year:

The scope of the collection is all births registered in Australia for the reference year, two years prior to the current year and the first quarter of the subsequent year. As an example: records received by the ABS during the March quarter of 2007 which were initially registered in 2006 (but not fully completed until 2007) are assigned to the 2006 processing year. Any registrations relating to 2006 which are received by the ABS after the end of the March quarter are assigned to the 2007 processing year.

Under the previous scope rule it was possible for registrations to not be recorded at all within the total historical record of all deaths which have occurred. For the purposes of this explanation, the reference year Y refers to the calendar year ending 31 December

From the 2007 reference year, the following business rules are used to determine the scope of the birth collection for any given reference year.

Births for a reference year Y comprises those events:

- added to the register in reference year Y (i.e. date of registration falls within 12 months comprising Y), and provided to the ABS in the monthly files received from the Registrar in the reference year Y or the 3 months ending 31 March of the year following the reference year Y; and*
- added to the register in reference year Y-n (i.e. date of registration falls earlier than 1 January in reference year Y) and is received by the ABS in the monthly files received from the Registrar in reference year Y or the 3 months ending 31 March of the year following the reference year Y and has not been included in any statistics reported for earlier periods.*

Births include:

1. All births that were live born and were not previously registered.
2. Births to temporary visitors to Australia (including visitors from Norfolk Island).
3. Births that occurred within Australian Territorial waters.
4. Births that occurred in Australian Antarctic Territories and other external territories.

5. Births occurred on Norfolk Island from 1 July 2016 are included. This is due to the introduction of the Norfolk Island Legislation Amendment Act 2015. Norfolk Island births are included in statistics for 'Other Territories' as well as totals for all of Australia. Births occurring on Norfolk Island prior to 1 July 2016 are not in scope for birth statistics.

6. Births that occurred in transit (i.e. on ships or planes) if registered in the Australian state or territory of 'next port of call'.

7. Births to Australian nationals employed overseas at Australian legations and consular offices (i.e. children born overseas to Australian diplomats or their families).

8. Births that occurred in earlier years that have not been previously registered (late registrations).

Births exclude:

1. Still births/ foetal deaths (these are accounted for in perinatal death statistics published in Causes of Death, Australia (cat. no. 3303.0), and previously, Perinatal Deaths, Australia (cat. no. 3304.0));

2. Adoptions, sex changes, legitimations and corrections.

3. Births to foreign diplomatic staff.

Registration of births are collected by the registry in each state and territory. There exists a national legislative requirement that all births be registered by the parents within 60 days of occurrence. Hospitals, doctors and midwives have responsibility for providing Birth Registration Statements (BRS) to the parents. As responsibility for registration lies with the parents of the child, the Registry must wait for the parents to submit the BRS before they can add the birth record to their database. It is well known that there can be a lag between occurrence and registration, which can often be

longer than the 60 day window specified in the legislative Act.

Additionally, records flagged as containing missing or incorrect information are not registered or provided to the ABS until the registry follow up with the parents and sufficiently complete the BRS. The lag between occurrence and registration can also be influenced by registry processing irregularities and backlogs. However, given that the responsibility for registration rests with the parents, the problem to a large extent is beyond the control of the ABS and the Registry.

DATA DETAIL

Conceptual framework

The collection, processing, compilation and dissemination of birth statistics is the joint responsibility of various stakeholders. The responsibility for registration of births and deaths in Australia lies with individual state and territory Registrars of Birth, Death and Marriage (RBDMs). Each state and territory has its own legislation covering the birth and death registration process, as well as the role and responsibilities of the RBDMs.

RBDMs supply Birth Registration Statements (BRS) to hospitals and birth clinics for distribution to parents. Parents have a legislative requirement to register a birth within 60 days, with the onus on the parents to submit a completed BRS to the Registry. The RBDM is responsible for processing the form and forwarding data to the ABS. The BRS is different in each state and territory, with different questions being asked of the parents. In addition, hospitals, birth clinics, midwives and doctors are responsible for notifying the RBDMs of all occurrences of births (including still-births). These records are later linked to the parent-completed BRS and used for following up outstanding BRS forms.

RBDMs supply information from the BRS to the ABS for coding (for example, geography, multiple births, marital status and birthplace), compilation, analysis and dissemination.

Births are a components of population growth. See

Demographic Estimates and Projections: Concepts, Sources and Methods, Statistical Concepts Library on the ABS website

Main outputs

Preliminary counts by state of usual residence are provided quarterly for population estimates.

Main output is annual data. Variables include:

- Sex, Month of Occurrence, Month of Registration, Nuptiality, Plurality, Indigenous status
- Mother's Details - Age, Usual Residence, Previous issue, Country of Birth
- Father's Details - Age, Usual Residence, Country of Birth.

Classifications

Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) for Usual Residence

Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) for Country of Birth

Other concepts (summary)

Age specific birth rate

Crude birth rates

Gross reproduction rates

Net reproduction rate

Total fertility rate

Estimated resident population

GEOGRAPHIC DETAIL

Australia

New South Wales

Victoria

Queensland

South Australia

Western Australia

Tasmania

Northern Territory

ACT

Other (specify below)

Comments and/or Other Regions

Australia

New South Wales

Victoria

Queensland
South Australia
Western Australia
Tasmania
Northern Territory
ACT
Greater Capital City Statistical Areas (GCCSA)
Rest of State
Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4)
Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3)
Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2)
Local Governments Areas
Remoteness Areas

COLLECTION FREQUENCY

Annually

Frequency comments

Information is collected from the relevant Registrar(s) of Births, Deaths and Marriages in each state and territory on a monthly basis.

COLLECTION HISTORY

The collection of births statistics in Australia dates back to 1839, when the first civil registration of births (as well as deaths and marriages) was enforced in Tasmania. Collected initially for purely administrative reasons, over the years the data became a valuable source of statistical information. The Australian Bureau of Statistics - ABS (formerly the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics) has had responsibility to produce population estimates since its establishment, and Births statistics has been an integral part of this process. State and National birth data date back to at least 1860, while birth data are available in electronic form from 1975, inclusive. Each State/Territory office of ABS was responsible for the collection and processing of Births data registered with that State/Territory up until 1996, when this function was centralised in the Queensland Office of ABS.

DATA AVAILABILITY

Yes

Data availability comments

Electronic data available from 1975

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Book Retailers Survey

Page tools:

NAME OF ORGANISATION

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

OVERVIEW

The Book Retailers Survey will be conducted annually with respect to 2000-2001 until 2003-2004. The survey collects information about the operation and financial performance of businesses which employ staff and are predominantly engaged in book retailing during the relevant reference period. Information is published regarding the financial and employment data of the businesses, as well as the numbers and values of various types of books sold.

PURPOSE

In August 1999, the Prime Minister wrote to the Leader of the Australian Democrats advising of the outcomes reached between their respective offices on the Book Industry Assistance Plan. The Plan was developed in response to concerns by the Australian Democrats that the GST would adversely affect the Australian book industry. The main objectives of the Plan are to:

- provide a subsidy to retail booksellers to reduce the retail book price to students studying at an Australian institution;
- provide financial assistance to book printers and publishers to revitalise the industry; and
- provide assistance to Australian creators of books.

An Appropriation Bill for the Plan was passed by Parliament and, in November 1999, the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts wrote to the Treasurer asking him to

formally approach the ABS with a view to implementing the statistical element of the Plan. The Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (DOCITA) was given responsibility for a number of elements of the Plan, including liaison with the ABS to collect, on an annual basis, data on book publishing and retail sales. The main external users are the Dept of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts and the Australian Booksellers Association. Users are looking to monitor the profitability of the sector. Data from the survey will input to decisions regarding the level of government support which should be provided to the book industry and the success of government initiatives to offset the expected impact of the GST.

SCOPE

The target population consists of all public and private businesses in Australia employing staff with significant book selling activity (excluding second hand books only).

DATA DETAIL

Conceptual framework

The main scope of the survey is all businesses which predominantly sell books. This is supplemented by information on the bookselling activity of supermarkets, department stores and retailers nec with 200+ employees.

Main outputs

For businesses which predominantly sell books the main outputs will be the number of organisations, estimates of income, expenses and employment; number and sales of books, sales over the Internet, use of business technology. For Supermarkets, Departments stores and Retailers nec, only book activity data is collected and output.

Classifications

The Australian and New Zealand Standard Industry Classification (ANZSIC) will be used. The lowest level at which estimates will be produced is the class level.

Other concepts (summary)

The survey collects data from management units.

GEOGRAPHIC DETAIL

Australia

Comments and/or Other Regions

COLLECTION FREQUENCY

Annually

Frequency comments

From 2000/01 until 2003/04.

COLLECTION HISTORY

8/99 John Howard wrote to Meg Lees confirming the setting up of the Book Industry Assistance Plan, something which had to be established in order to obtain Democrat support for Tax Reform (GST) legislation. The plan provides for annual statistical collections of book publishers from 1999-2000 to 2003-04 and of book retailers from 2000-01 to 2003-04.

2/00 Development for 2000/01 survey commenced.

10/01 Despatch of forms for 2000/01 survey.

11/02 Publication released.

12/02 Despatch of forms for 2001/02 survey.

DATA AVAILABILITY

Yes

Data availability comments

Publishable data was released in hardcopy and to the ABS website

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Building Activity

Page tools:

NAME OF ORGANISATION

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

OVERVIEW

The quarterly Building Activity Survey collects data relating to all stages (commenced, under construction, completed) of residential and non-residential building activity undertaken in the reference quarter. Other key data items are derived, and include the value of work done, work yet to be done and work not yet commenced.

The quarterly Building Activity Survey has been conducted since the September quarter 1980. Prior to this, building activity details were obtained from the Building Operations Census.

The statistics are compiled from returns collected from builders and other individuals and organisations engaged in building activity. The ABS Building Approvals collection provides the framework for the survey, from which a sample of newly approved building jobs is selected each quarter for inclusion in Building Activity Survey. As well as those jobs newly selected in the current quarter, other building jobs included in a quarterly Building Activity Survey comprise those jobs selected in previous quarters that have not been completed (or commenced) by the end of the previous quarter.

The Building Activity Survey currently consists of:

- a sample of:
 - all building jobs involving residential building jobs valued at

\$50,000 or more and non-residential building jobs valued at \$250,000 or more,

- a complete enumeration of:
 - all building jobs involving residential building jobs valued greater than \$10,000 and less than \$50,000 and non-residential building jobs valued greater than \$50,000 and less than \$250,000, with values for their data items modelled,
 - new houses over \$1million,
 - A&A to residential over \$500,000,
 - all jobs over \$5 million.

Since the estimates for private sector building activity (including alterations and additions) are based on a sample of approved building jobs, they are subject to sampling error, ie, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained if information for all approved jobs for the relevant period had been included in the survey. Furthermore, the estimation of smaller jobs from their approval value introduces further error. Relative standard errors (RSEs) of the estimates are published with the quarterly data to which they refer. These RSEs incorporate estimates of both components of estimation error.

The use of sample survey techniques means that reliable estimates of building activity, including alterations and additions, are generally available only at the state/territory and Australian levels. For example, details of both the number and value of new houses and of new other dwellings and the value of alterations and additions to residential buildings can be made available for Capital City Statistical Divisions (Capital City SDs) and Rest of State. Similarly, details of the value of non-residential building activity are available at the Capital City SD and Rest of State level and perhaps other broad areas (eg, other SDs), depending on the RSEs involved. Estimates are produced to the Statistical Division level.

PURPOSE

The predominant requirement of Building Activity Survey is to provide quarterly estimates of Value of Work Done and Value of Commencements data for national accounts purposes and economic policy departments. Building Activity Survey is the main source data for private sector Gross Fixed Capital Formation on new dwellings and alterations and additions to residential buildings as well as (private sector) new other buildings. Building Activity Survey also provides official national and state estimates of the number of dwellings commenced.

SCOPE

The statistics are compiled on the basis of returns collected from builders and other individuals and organisations engaged in building activity.

The statistics relate to building activity which includes construction of

new buildings and alterations and additions to existing buildings. Construction activity not defined as building (eg, construction of roads, bridges, railways, earthworks, etc) is excluded.

The population list from which new jobs are selected comprises all approved building jobs which were notified to the ABS up to but not including the last month of the reference quarter (ie, up to the end of November with respect to the December quarter survey). Thus, given the coverage of the Building Approvals Collection, residential building jobs with a Value of Approval (VOA) of less than \$10,000 and non-residential building jobs with a VOA of less than \$50,000 are excluded from the Building Activity Survey.

DATA DETAIL

Conceptual framework

The Building Activity Survey is a quarterly sample survey of approximately 34,000 - 43,000 building jobs in various stages of construction, identified largely through the building approval process. The statistics are compiled from returns collected from builders and other individuals and organisations engaged in building activity.

The population of approved jobs from which selections are made for inclusion in Building Activity Survey comprises all approved building jobs which were notified to the ABS up to but not including the last month of the reference quarter. This introduces a lag to the statistics in respect of those jobs notified and commenced in the last month of the reference quarter. For example, building jobs which were notified as approved in the month of December and which actually commenced in that month are shown as commencements in the March quarter.

Building jobs included in each quarterly survey comprise those jobs selected in previous quarters which have not been completed (or commenced) by the end of the previous quarter and those jobs newly selected in the current quarter. Once selected, a job is included in Building Activity Survey until it is completed or abandoned.

The data collected are Value of work done, Estimated completion value, Month of commencement, Month of completion and Floor area created. This data is linked to unit record data collected as part of the Building Approvals Collection.

Main outputs

Publications Available

Construction Work Done, Australia, Preliminary (cat. no. 8755.0) - issued from March quarter 2001 onwards and generally released in the last week of the second month after the reference period. (Previously called Building Activity, Australia: Building Work Done, Preliminary (cat. no. 8755.0)).

Dwelling Unit Commencements, Australia, Preliminary (cat. no. 8750.0) - released 54 working days (WDs) after the end of the reference period. (Previously called Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, Preliminary (cat. no. 8750.0)).

Building Activity, Australia (cat. no. 8752.0) - released 74 WDs after the reference period.

Contents of Publications

8755.0 - Up to the December quarter 2000 issue, contains preliminary estimates of the value of work done in Australia for both residential and non-residential building and for the private sector and total. From the March quarter 2001 issue onwards, includes estimates for work done on alterations and additions to residential building and for work done on engineering construction by sector. From the September quarter 2002 issue onwards, includes some state and territory data. From the June quarter 2004 issue onwards, includes estimates for work in the pipeline, ie number of dwelling units approved but not yet commenced at end of quarter, value of work approved but not yet commenced at end of quarter, and work yet to be done at end of quarter. Some of the data is available in seasonally adjusted and trend terms, as well as original, and some is available as chain volume measures.

8750.0 - contains preliminary estimates of the number of dwelling units (new houses, new other residential and conversions, etc) commenced for private sector and public sector, by state and territory. Total number of dwelling units commenced by state and territory in seasonally adjusted and trend terms.

8752.0 - contains information for each state and territory, and for private and public sectors for Australia. Includes number of dwelling units commenced and completed and value of building work commenced, completed, done and yet to be done, all by state and territory. Information is provided for new residential buildings (houses and other residential), alterations and additions to residential

buildings and non-residential buildings by function of building (eg, offices, warehouses, accommodation, etc.). In addition, many series are shown in seasonally adjusted and trend terms, while the value of building work commenced and done is also shown in chain volume measures terms, with the reference year being the year prior to the latest complete financial year. It includes more comprehensive and updated information to that contained in cat. nos. 8755.0 and 8750.0. It also includes tables of Relative Standard Errors.

ABS Website

Data from the above national publications are available on AusStats within minutes of release of the publications, as well as most state and territory series previously published in 8752.1-8. Some series no longer published in 8752.0 (from and including the March quarter 2003 issue), together with data previously included in Construction Activity at Constant Prices, Australia (cat. no. 8782.0), which was withdrawn after the June quarter 1995 issue, are also available on AusStats.

Data Cubes

A data cube containing state and territory data from September quarter 2001 to the current quarter by type of work, type of building, sector, number of dwelling units commenced and completed and value of work done, commenced and completed, is available from the ABS website.

Special Data Service

We can prepare tables from the Information Warehouse to suit the needs of clients.

Classifications

A Job Specific

These items are generally the same as collected in the Building Approvals collection. Their values are carried through to Building Activity Survey. However, the values for Building Activity Survey can be amended during processing. Normal survey outputs are not necessarily available across all of the classifications presented here.

The following items are recorded using the classifications listed:

Type of Work (WRK)

Classification used:

From and including the December quarter 2000 cycle, a WRK code of "7" was introduced to be consistent with the Building Approvals Collection and to uniquely represent the conversion of a non-residential building to a residential building. The Type of Work classification thus became:

- 1 New building
- 2 Alterations and/or additions to an existing building
- 3 Refurbishment (a special category of alterations and additions primarily for non-residential building)
- 7 Conversions (of non-residential buildings to residential buildings).

Data published for the number of dwelling units under the heading of "conversions, etc", is obtained by a combination of the above codes 1, 2 or 7 with relevant Type of Building (BLD) codes below. Thus, if jobs with a WRK code of 2 or 7 involve 1 or more dwellings, the dwellings are counted in "Conversions, etc" no matter what the BLD code, but if a job with a WRK code of 1 involves 1 or more dwellings, it's only counted as a "Conversion, etc" if it has a BLD code of non-residential.

Note also that the number of dwelling units published under the heading of "conversions, etc", is the equivalent of the total number of dwelling units approved as published in Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no. 8731.0) under the 3 headings "Alterations and additions to residential buildings", "Conversions" and "Non-residential building".

Type of Building (BLD) -

Classification used:

Prior to September quarter 2001 type of building was coded to the 1986 Functional Classification of Buildings. From September quarter 2001 the type of building has been coded to the 1999 Functional Classification of Buildings.

The 1999 Functional Classification of Buildings (Cat no. 1268.0.55.001) is available on the ABS website.

Sector of ownership (OWN)

Classification used:

- 1 Private sector
- 5 Public sector (Federal, State and Local)

The ownership of a building is classified as either public sector or private sector according to the sector of the intended owner of the completed building as evident at the time of approval. Data is published for private/public/total sectors.

ASGC

State and Statistical Local Area (SLA) are recorded using the version of Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) that is relevant to the time period.

Details of new houses and total new residential building (number of dwellings and value) and of alterations and additions to residential buildings (value only) and total residential building (value only) are available for Capital City SDs and Rest of State, subject to a warning regarding the level of accuracy. Data for Capital City SDs and Rest of State continues to also be available for non-residential and other residential building, despite the introduction of sampling for these types of building from the December quarter 2001 and March quarter 2002 respectively.

Other concepts (summary)

Conversions, etc

From the September quarter 1995 (for cat. no. 8750.0) and the June quarter 1996 (for cat. no. 8752.0) publications, dwelling units created as part of alterations and additions to existing buildings (including conversions to dwelling units) and as part of the construction of non-residential buildings are shown separately under the heading of "Conversions, etc" and included in the total number of dwelling units. Previously, such dwellings were included only as a footnote.

Commenced

A building is defined as commenced when the first physical building activity has been performed on site in the form of materials fixed in place and/or labour expended (this includes site preparation but excludes delivery of materials, the drawing of plans and specifications and the construction of non-building infrastructures such as roads).

Value of building commenced or under construction

This represents the anticipated completion value or Builders Anticipated Value based, where practicable, on the estimated market or contract price of building jobs excluding the value of land and

landscaping. Site preparation costs are included. Where jobs proceed over several quarters the anticipated completion value reported on the return for the first (commencement) quarter may be amended on returns for subsequent (under construction) quarters as the job nears completion.

Quarter Specific

Value of job

Initially this is the Value of Approval, but it can be amended any quarter by the respondent.

Value of work done at the end of the reference quarter

This is the total value of work done on the building job to date as reported by the respondent.

Value of work done in the reference quarter

This is calculated by subtracting the total work done to the end of the previous quarter from the total work done to the end of the current quarter.

GEOGRAPHIC DETAIL

Australia

New South Wales

Victoria

Queensland

South Australia

Western Australia

Tasmania

Northern Territory

ACT

Statistical Division

Part of State Metropolitan

Part of State Extra-Metropolitan

Capital City Statistical Division

Comments and/or Other Regions

COLLECTION FREQUENCY

Quarterly

Frequency comments

BACS has been a quarterly survey since its commencement in the September quarter 1980.

COLLECTION HISTORY

Note:

The Building Activity Survey produces estimates at various stages of the quarterly collection cycle, each set of estimates being based on successively higher response rates. These stages (or "cut-offs") are:

Referred to as:	and used to produce:
National Accounts (NAs) "stage" or "estimates"	Construction Work Done, Australia, Preliminary (ABS cat. no. 8755.0) and estimates for the ABSs quarterly National Accounts
Version 1 (V1) "stage" or "estimates"	Dwelling Unit Commencements, Australia, Preliminary (ABS cat. no. 8750.0)
Version 2 (V2) "stage" or "estimates"	Building Activity, Australia (ABS cat. no. 8752.0) and revised data for 8755.0 (up to September quarter 2003 issue)
Version 3 (V3) "stage" or "estimates"	revised data for 8750.0
Version 4 (V4) "stage" or "estimates"	revised (and final) data for all 3 publications

The Building Activity Survey has been conducted since the September quarter 1980. Prior to this, building activity details were obtained from the Building Operations Census.

From the September quarter 1990, non-residential building jobs (both new and alterations and additions) with an approval value of \$50,000 or more were included in the survey. Prior to this quarter, this "cut-off" was \$30,000.

From and including the December quarter 1996:

- a new sampling methodology was used with the aim of keeping the number of newly selected sample sector jobs constant, and
- estimates were made at the V1 stage to impute commencements for non-responding uncommenced residential jobs.

From and including the September quarter 1998:

A new publication Building Activity, Australia: Building Work Done, Preliminary (ABS cat. no. 8755.0), contained preliminary estimates of

the value of building work done, to provide an early indication of trends in building activity. The estimates are based on a response rate of approximately 80% of the value of building work done during the quarter.

For the June quarter 2000:

Three variations of the collection forms (BACS1 to BACS3) had the words "Note: Please include the value of the Goods and Services Tax (GST)" added after Question 1 "Estimated value of job when completed". The BACS4 form simply had the words "(Including GST)" added after the corresponding Question 6, due to space constraints.

For the September quarter 2000:

All respondents received collection forms for which an instruction was added to the question on "work done" to include the GST component, similar to that added to the June quarter 2000 forms for the question on the "completion value" of the job.

From and including the September quarter 2000:

Not all building jobs are reported to ABS on the preferred (value data to be inclusive of GST) basis. Where this is indicated to be the case, appropriate adjustments are made to the data for those jobs. An adjustment is also made to non-residential data such that published estimates of non-residential building are on a GST exclusive basis.

From and including the December quarter 2000:

A new sampling methodology and imputation and estimation system was introduced.

From and including the March quarter 2001

A revised publication Construction Work Done, Australia, Preliminary (ABS cat. no. 8755.0) was issued. This continued data previously included in Building Activity, Australia: Building Work Done, Preliminary (ABS cat. no. 8755.0) and presented some additional series and also included some preliminary figures on engineering construction work done. The latter are based on a response rate of approximately 80% of the value of engineering work done during the quarter.

From and including the June quarter 2001

The stratum boundaries for sampling new private sector houses and alterations and additions to private sector house jobs were changed. They were generally increased in value, resulting in fewer jobs being in the completely enumerated strata and more being selected from the sampled strata.

From and including the December quarter 2001

Sampling was introduced for private sector non-residential building, for both new and alteration and addition jobs. Jobs above a cut-off level of Value of Approval (VOA) - which varies for each state - continued to be completely enumerated.

Thus, although complete data by SLA was no longer available for non-residential building, aggregate details of large (VOA more than \$1million) private sector non-residential jobs were still available by SLA, as was complete public sector non-residential building.

From and including the March quarter 2002

Sampling was introduced for private sector other residential building, for both new and alteration and addition jobs. In the five mainland states, jobs were either sampled or completely enumerated, depending on a combination of the VOA and number of dwelling units involved. In Tasmania and the two territories, all jobs continued to be completely enumerated.

Thus, although complete data by SLA was no longer available for other residential building for the five mainland states, aggregate details of large (VOA more than \$0.5 million for new buildings and more than \$0.3 million for alterations and additions) private sector other residential jobs were still available by SLA. Complete private sector other residential buildings data for Tasmania and the two territories continued to be available by SLA, as did complete public sector other residential buildings data for all states and territories.

From and including the March quarter 2003

The March quarter 2003 issue of the publication Building Activity, Australia (ABS cat. no. 8752.0) was revised and included extensive changes to the format and data content of the tables. Changes included more state and territory data and fewer private/public sector dissections. Generally however, data no longer included in the publication continued to be available on AusStats.

The March quarter 2003 issue of 8752.0 also included, for the first time, data based on the new 2000 Functional Classification of Buildings (FCB). The new FCB affected only the non-residential sector and data on the new basis was released commencing with the September quarter 2001.

From and including the June quarter 2003

New 'concurrent' seasonal adjustment methodology, replacing forward factor methodology, was adopted, commencing with the June quarter 2003 issue of cat. no. 8755.0

The final issues of the state and territory publications were issued. Many state/territory series were included in 8752.0 and all series previously in the state/territory publications were included in AusStats. A new product, referred to as a 'data cube', containing a time series of most of the variables in the discontinued publications, was introduced.

From and including the December quarter 2003

A review of the sample design resulted in changes to the target sample numbers for private sector new selections for 'new houses' and for 'alterations and additions to houses' mainly, but also some changes for 'new other residential'. The sample re-allocation resulted in an increase in the target number of new selections for sampled strata from about 4,000 to about 4,400 jobs or about 10%. It ensured the continued accuracy of data, particularly for the number of new houses commenced and the value of alterations and additions to houses, by state and territory.

From and including the June quarter 2005

The sample design this quarter was refined to reduce the sample size. This was done by a) using the same value boundaries across different strata; b) raising the value of modelled A&A jobs from \$40k to \$50k; and c) collapsing non-residential and non-house residential strata into a single quarterly strata as opposed to having three separate strata representing the three months in the quarter.

Complete enumeration of the Northern Territory was discontinued and sampling introduced.

Modelling of small (<\$50,000) residential jobs was introduced. Such jobs were no longer selected in sample. This change was not expected to have a noticeable impact on estimates (negligible estimated bias and small impact on variances).

From and including the September quarter 2005

Modelling of small (<\$250,000) non-residential jobs was introduced. Such jobs were no longer selected in sample. This change is not expected to have a noticeable impact on estimates (negligible estimated bias and small impact on variances).

From and including the June quarter 2006

Complete enumeration of the public sector jobs was discontinued and sampling introduced.

DATA AVAILABILITY

Yes

Data availability comments

Data is available in the form of publications, time series on the ABS Website and in a data cubes. Information is also released in Australian Economic Indicators (and corresponding State versions)

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Building Approvals

Page tools:

NAME OF ORGANISATION

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

OVERVIEW

The monthly Building Approvals (BAPS) collection collects data relating to residential and non-residential building work above certain value limits that have been approved within the reference month. Data from this collection is an important leading economic indicator of future building activity. It also provides the sampling framework for the quarterly Building Activity Survey, which is a major contributor to the quarterly National Accounts estimates.

PURPOSE

Building Approval statistics are used extensively by both public and private sector organisations to monitor economic activity, employment and investment.

SCOPE

Statistics of building work approved are compiled from:

- permits issued by local government authorities and other principal certifying authorities;
- contracts let or day labour work authorised by Commonwealth, State, semi-government and local government authorities; and
- major building approvals in areas not subject to normal administrative approval activity eg. building on remote mine sites.

The scope of the collection comprises the following:

- construction of new buildings;
- alterations and additions to existing buildings;
- approved non-structural renovation and refurbishment work; and
- approved installation of integral building fixtures.

Construction activity not defined as building (eg, construction of roads, bridges, railways, earthworks, etc) are excluded. Statistics for this activity can be found in *Engineering Construction Activity, Australia* (ABS Cat No. 8762.0).

The coverage of these statistics has changed over time:

- From July 1990, the statistics include all approved residential building valued at \$10,000 or more and all approved non-residential building valued at \$50,000 or more.
- From July 1988 to June 1990, the statistics include all approved residential building valued at \$10,000 or more and all approved non-residential building valued at \$30,000 or more.
- From July 1975 to June 1988, the statistics include all approved residential and non-residential building valued at \$10,000 or more.
- Up to June 1975, the statistics include all approved new building, and alterations and additions involving a structural change or floor area expansion.

DATA DETAIL

Conceptual framework

The monthly Building Approvals collection gathers data on a monthly basis relating to the number and value of residential and non-residential building approvals, from information provided by approving authorities. Data collected are available as part of the normal administrative building approval process, and are generally readily available from the relevant local government or other approving authority.

The collection is a census of all approved building jobs. A 'building job' is a construction project comprising work to one or more buildings. Building job data are based on the building approval records within the scope of the collection received each month.

For the purposes of this collection, a building is a rigid, fixed and permanent structure which has a roof. Its intended purpose is primarily to house people, plant, machinery, vehicles, goods or livestock. An integral feature of a building's design is the provision for regular access by persons in order to satisfy its intended use.

The information provided to the ABS and included in estimates for any month may be revised or corrected in later months. This can

occur as a result of corrections made by a provider of data, the late provision of approval records and, occasionally, by approvals being identified after construction work has commenced.

The ABS generally accepts values provided by approving bodies. Every effort is made to ensure data are provided on a consistent basis, however, there may be instances where the value reported does not reflect the building completion value. For example, the reported value for most project homes is the contract price, which may include the cost of site preparation and landscaping. In other cases where a builder is contracted to construct a dwelling based on the owner's plans, the value may only be the builder's costs. Some data providers do not use the value on approval documents, instead deriving a value based on floor area and type of structure.

From July 2000, value data includes the Goods and Services Tax (GST) for residential and non-residential building approvals.

Main outputs

Publications Available

Building Approvals, Australia (ABS Cat No. 8731.0) - issued monthly. The publication is released approximately 22 working days after the reference month.

Contents of Publications

The publications contain monthly information on the number of dwelling units and value of new residential buildings (houses and other residential), for private and public sector, value of alterations and additions to residential buildings and value of non-residential building by class of building (eg, hotels, offices, etc.) approved. They also contain seasonally adjusted and trend estimates for the number of dwelling units and value of building approved, as well as quarterly values of building approved in chain volume measures, with the reference year being the year prior to the latest complete financial year.

AusStats (Website)

Data (with the exception of small area data) are available on AusStats at the time of release of the publication.

Data Cubes

Datacubes for small areas are available from the ABS website for each of the states/territories. Statistical Local Area (SLA) information

is available from 2001-02 to 2011-12, and Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) information from 2011-12 onwards. Due to significant conceptual differences between SLA and SA2, the estimation of Local Government Areas (LGAs) is not possible using SA2s. Consequently data cubes at the LGA level will be produced independently of SA2 outputs from 2012-13.

Classifications

Classifications used for published data:

Type of Building

Type of Building is the building's intended predominant function according to the ABS Functional Classification of Buildings 1999 (cat. no. 1268.0.55.001).

- Except where specified in the Functional Classification of Buildings, a building which is ancillary to other buildings, or forms a part of a group of related buildings, is classified to the function of the building and not to the function of the group as a whole. For example, in the case of a factory complex, a detached administration building would be classified to Offices, a detached cafeteria building to Retail/wholesale trade, while factory buildings would be classified to Factories. An exception to this rule is the treatment of group accommodation buildings where, for example, a student accommodation building on a university campus would be classified to Educational.
- For a significant multi-function building which at the time of approval is intended to have more than one purpose (e.g. a hotel/shops/casino project), the ABS endeavours to split the approval details according to each main function. Where this is not possible because separate details cannot be obtained, the building is classified to the predominant function of the building.

Type of Work

Type of Work consists of 'new', 'alterations and additions', and 'conversions'. Conversions are considered to be a special type of alteration, and these jobs have been separately identified as such from the July 1996 reference month, though they have only appeared separately in this publication from the January 1998 issue. Prior to that issue, conversions were published as part of the 'Conversions, etc.' category or included elsewhere within a table.

Sector of Ownership

Building ownership is classified as either public or private sector and is based on the sector of the intended owner of the completed building at the time of approval. Residential buildings constructed by private sector builders under government housing authority schemes are classified as public sector when the authority has contracted, or intends to contract, to purchase the building on or before completion.

Geographic Classification

Building approvals are classified to the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2011 Edition (cat. no. 1216.0.15.001) and Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), 2011 Edition (cat. no. 1270.0.55.001) effective from July 2011. Building approvals before July 2011 were classified according to the current edition of the ASGC at that time, and are presented in this publication unrevised, in the original geographical area that applied at the time of approval. From July 2012 onwards building approvals will be classified to the ASGS only - for more information see the Feature Article: Implementation of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard in ABS Building Approvals Collection in the April 2011 issue of *Building Approvals, Australia* (cat. no. 8731.0).

Other concepts (summary)

Refer to the Explanatory Notes and Glossary, *Building Approvals, Australia* (cat. no. 8731.0).

GEOGRAPHIC DETAIL

Australia
New South Wales
Victoria
Queensland
South Australia
Western Australia
Tasmania
Northern Territory
ACT
Legal Local Government Area
Other (specify below)

Comments and/or Other Regions

Additional geography

To June 2012

Statistical Division
Statistical Subdivision
Statistical Local Area

July 2011 onwards

Greater Capital City Statistical Area
Statistical Area Level 2

From 1 July 2002, approvals in the Territories of Jervis Bay, Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands are included in these statistics. Jervis Bay is included in New South Wales, while Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands are included in Western Australia. This differs to their treatment in the ASGC and ASGS, where these Territories are included in 'Other Territories'.

COLLECTION FREQUENCY

Monthly

Frequency comments

Data for building approvals is collected on a calendar month basis.

COLLECTION HISTORY

From the October 2003 issue, Building Approvals Australia (cat. no. 8731.0) was expanded to include the state and territory data series of interest to most users.

For Victoria, from and including the April 1997 issue of Building Approvals, Victoria (ABS Cat No. 8731.2), the ABS used data supplied from the Building Commission (BC) as its primary source of building approval data, including that approved by private building surveyors (who commenced operating from July 1994).

From and including the July 2000 cycle, all approving authorities were asked to report the Value of Approval inclusive of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) for all approvals (residential and non-residential) granted from July 2000. However, it is possible that not all approving authorities necessarily reported on a GST inclusive basis commencing July 2000 and it is likely that there was a GST component included in the value of approvals for the 6 months or more leading up to July 2000. For more details, see the Technical Note "Factors that influence the valuation of building approvals" in the July 2000 issue of Building Approvals, Australia.

From and including the July 2000 cycle the Type of Building was dual coded to both the 1986 and 1999 "Functional Classification of Buildings" (FCB). Data on the 1999 FCB basis for 2000-2001 was first published in the July 2001 issue of Building Approvals, Australia. Data on the 1986 FCB was last published in the January 2008 issue of Building Approvals, Australia.

DATA AVAILABILITY

Yes

Data availability comments

As well as the statistics included in *Building Approvals* (cat. no. 8731.0) and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant

data available on request.

A list of data items available on an information consultancy basis from July 2011 is provided on the "Downloads" tab of the April 2011 issue of the *Building Approvals, Australia* (cat. no. 8731.0) publication on the ABS website under Data Cubes, 'Building Approvals: Data items available by Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS).' Included are available data items by Statistical Area 2 (SA2), Local Government Area (LGA), and Greater Capital City Statistical Area (GCCSA), State and Australia.

A charge will be made for providing unpublished information via an information consultancy. Inquiries should be made to the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

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Building Commencements

Page tools:

NAME OF ORGANISATION

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

OVERVIEW

The monthly collection of Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities (BCOS) provided data on the number of new dwelling units reported by approving authorities as having commenced. This collection was able to provide numbers of dwelling commencements at a more detailed regional level and on a more timely basis than the quarterly Building Activity Survey (BACS).

These statistics were compiled from data provided by local and other government authorities on commencements of new house and other residential building jobs for which:

- building permits were issued by Local Authorities; or
- contracts were let or day labour work approved by Commonwealth, State, Semi-Government, and Local Authorities.

For the purposes of this statistical series, a job was regarded as being commenced on the date when:

- the job was first inspected by a Local Authority or other government authority building inspector or surveyor, whether the work was passed or not. In general, the first inspection was undertaken at the foundations or footings stage of construction; or
- the job was determined as commenced by a building inspector or surveyor.

Data for dwelling unit commencements was collected and published on a monthly basis from July 1980 in all States. However, no data

was published for the ACT, nor has a national publication been released. Data for the Northern Territory was published, starting with the six month period July to December 1992.

From the December quarter 1996 the collection was restricted to Western Australia and South Australia and collections ceased in those two States after the September quarter 1997.

Because of the differences in data sources and collection methodologies and timing of notification of commencements, care should be exercised in comparing quarterly data derived from monthly dwelling commencement statistics with the quarterly dwelling commencement statistics from the BACS.

PURPOSE

The prime purpose was to provide data for calculation of the stock of dwellings and for population estimates purposes and to identify growth regions.

SCOPE

Commencements of new residential building jobs for which an approval has been received.

DATA DETAIL

Conceptual framework

BCOS collected data from approving authorities about the first inspection dates of residential building jobs approved by the authority.

Data was generally available down to the Census Collection District level.

Actual date or month of commencement was acquired. This allowed presentation and analysis by virtually any period. The commencement "record" was simply a part of the approval record and hence data could be cross referenced to produce "lag" (time from approval to commencement) and "leakage" (jobs not yet commenced) statistics at the record level and at small area level.

Main outputs

Publications Available

Publications titled "Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities" were produced for States/Territories with the final issues being as indicated below:

Final issue

New South Wales (ABS Cat No. 8741.1) September 1996

Victoria (ABS Cat No. 8741.2) June 1996
Queensland (ABS Cat No. 8741.3) September 1996
South Australia (ABS Cat No. 8741.4) September 1997
Western Australia (ABS Cat No. 8741.5) September 1997
Tasmania (ABS Cat No. 8741.6) September 1996
Northern Territory (ABS Cat No. 8741.7) March 1993

Contents of Publications

The publications contain details of the number of dwelling units commenced classified by ownership, statistical division, statistical subdivision and statistical local area.

Classifications

Major classifications used include Type of Work, Type of Building, Ownership, Materials.

Other concepts (summary)

Not applicable.

GEOGRAPHIC DETAIL

New South Wales

Victoria

Queensland

South Australia

Western Australia

Tasmania

Statistical Division

Statistical Subdivision

Statistical Local Area

Census Collection District

Legal Local Government Area

Statistical District

Major Statistical Region

Statistical Region

Section of State

Major Statistical District

Part of State Metropolitan

Part of State Extra-Metropolitan

Census Division

Census Subdivision

Capital City Statistical Division

Comments and/or Other Regions

No data was published for the ACT and the final data published for

the NT was for March 1993.

COLLECTION FREQUENCY

Other

Frequency comments

Was quarterly from September quarter 1980 to December quarter 1990 and then monthly until September 1996. For the period October 1996 to September 1997 (for SA and WA only) the publications were quarterly but with monthly data.

COLLECTION HISTORY

The BCOS collection was discontinued in Victoria after June 1996, in NSW, Qld and Tasmania after September 1996 and in SA and WA (where it continued for an extra year as user funded collections) after September 1997.

Reasons for its cessation included the fact that the BACS and monthly ABS Building Approvals (BAPS) collections were suitable alternative sources for most users needs and concerns about the reliability of the data given the changing role of council inspections at the commencement stage.

DATA AVAILABILITY

Yes

Data availability comments

No data available after September 1997 for any States/Territories, due to cessation of the collection.

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Business Characteristics Survey

Page tools:

NAME OF ORGANISATION

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

OVERVIEW

The Business Characteristics Survey (BCS) is an annual survey and it is the vehicle for the ABS' Integrated Business Characteristics Strategy (IBCS). The strategy integrates the collection and quality assurance of data required for input into both ABS Business Longitudinal Database (BLD) and the production of point in time estimates for: use of information technology, innovation; and, a broad range of other non-financial characteristics. A key part of the IBCS is the production of annual use of information technology and innovation indicators, with a more detailed set of items for each of these topics collected every second year (i.e. in alternating years). For example, the 2011-12 BCS collected detailed information relating to the use of information technology by Australian businesses.

The first BCS was conducted in 2004-05; this survey collected business characteristics data required for the BLD only. The 2005-06 was the first integrated survey and combined the collection of general business characteristics required for the BLD with the collection of items previously collected in the Business Use of Information Technology (BUI) survey and some summary indicators previously collected in the Survey of Innovation in Australian Business. The 2006-07 survey collected general business characteristics and more detailed innovation data.

The sample design for this survey is complex due it serving dual

purposes: collection of characteristics data for the ABS' BLD; and production of point in time estimates. While there are scope differences between the BLD and point in time estimates, the intention is to maximise the number of businesses selected for which data collected can contribute to both purposes.

The design variables for the BCS population outputs are the proportion of businesses undertaking internet commerce (placing and/or receiving orders) and proportion of innovators. The target Standard Errors for the design variables are specified at the total Australian level and are comparable to that achieved for BUIT and approximately double that achieved for Innovation in the past. The targets then vary based on industry and employment size; they are broadly comparable to the quality achieved in previous surveys.

The overall (once all panels have been birthed) target sample size is approximately 14,000 selections. For the 2012-13 BCS, of the total overall sample, approximately 6,500 selections contribute to BCS population estimates and 8,200 form part of the BLD panels (this means that around 2,200 selections are common to both the BLD and the population estimates). Careful consideration is being given to all aspects of sample design, particularly those which could result in more efficiencies and reduced provider load.

The core IT and business characteristics content has remained relatively unchanged since 2006-07. In general, innovation content is more onerous and conceptually complex than IT content. Core business characteristics content includes the activity of the business, the number of locations, whether the business is home based; employment including casuals, full/part time, turnover and pay arrangements; age of business; foreign ownership; trade status; franchising and other co-operative arrangements; measures used to assess business performance; debt and equity finance; markets and competition; and, core annual indicators of innovation and IT use.

PURPOSE

The benefits of the Integrated Business Characteristics Strategy (IBCS) include:

- A more coherent and consistent set of business characteristic statistics covering a range of variables for the whole economy. The enhanced usefulness of business characteristics data will be possible through the integration of data collection as more data

will be relatable.

- Users will have greater ability to undertake cross-cutting research on the effects of various business practices on firm performance. This is the most significant benefit from the integration proposal.
- Improved data quality through alignment of concepts, increased data confrontation, improved survey design and estimation methodologies, and consistent survey processes;
- Flexibility of the collection vehicle to adapt to changing needs;
- Reduced overall provider load due to two instead of three survey iterations every two years. In addition, the reuse of longitudinal data to contribute to cross-sectional estimates may result in a reduced overall sample size over the sample sizes required for separate surveys.
- A more even spread of workload across years for internal ABS processing areas;
- Ongoing ABS resource efficiencies in having two instead of the current three surveys covering Innovation and BUIT every two years, as well as efficiencies that may be garnered by any overlap in longitudinal and cross-sectional sample; and
- More rapid development and adoption of best practice survey processes with associated reduced operational costs through the streamlining of business processes re-use of aspects of existing business processes, systems and methodologies.

The BCS aims to collect key measures on business characteristics to develop more relevant and effective government industry policies, supporting the Australian businesses particularly, the small and medium businesses. The data collected will support the BLD and will be used to build a statistical longitudinal database for public and private sector analysts. It is aimed to provide users with business characteristics data augmented with financial data from administrative sources and other existing ABS surveys.

Population and cross-classified outputs can be produced for most BCS content not just BUIT and Innovation. The much larger volume of characteristics data (particularly, annual indicators of innovation and the ability to produce cross-classified outputs) has expanded the range of outputs.. These additional outputs, as well as the BLD CURF (and other analytical outputs), result in a substantial increase in the amount of these types of information. The BCS also enables the production of a range of statistics that is complementary to financial data produced by the Annual Industry Statistics (AIS) BSC.

Key users of both the BLD and population (cross-classified) outputs are Department of Industry, Department of Communication, Productivity Commission, CSIRO, Department of Education, Department of Employment, Treasury, Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment.

SCOPE

The scope of the BCS reflects the dual purpose of the survey program with different scopes for longitudinal unit record and population/cross sectional outputs:

1. The scope of BCS population estimates are employing businesses based on the Pay As You Go Withholding (PAYGW) scheme in the industries specified. It is not unusual for some of these 'employing businesses' to have zero employment at various times during the reported period.
2. The scope of the BLD is all businesses registered for an Australian Business Number (ABN) that remit GST and have an employment of less than 200. Additional sample is included for the BLD in relevant ANZSIC groups in the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; Manufacturing; and Wholesale Trade divisions to represent the "Food Industry" and enable more detailed analysis of this "Industry".

Both the BCS population estimates and the BLD also exclude:

- SCSA 3000 General government
- SCSA 6000 Rest of the world

The BLD also exclude:

- SCSA Sector 2 - Financial corporations
- SCSA Sector 5 - Not-for-profit Institutions Serving Households

BCS	BLD (Excluded are the ABSM Pop and emp >200)	BCS (BUI/Innovation) cross sectional & population estimates
Division A - Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	Yes	Yes
Division B - Mining	Yes	Yes
Division C - Manufacturing	Yes	Yes
Division D - Electricity, Gas and Water	No	Yes
Division E - Construction	Yes	Yes
Division F - Wholesale Trade	Yes	Yes
Division G - Retail Trade	Yes	Yes
Division H - Accommodation and Food Services	Yes	Yes
Division I - Transport, Postal and Warehousing	Yes	Yes
Division J - Information Media and Telecommunications	Yes	Yes

Division K - Financial and Insurance Services excluding Group 624 (Financial Asset Investing) and Group 633 (Superannuation Funds)	No	Partial
Division L - Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	Yes	Yes
Division M - Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	Yes	Yes
Division N - Administrative and Support Services	Yes	Yes
Division O - Public Administration and Safety	No	No
Division P - Education and Training	No	No
Division Q - Health Care and Social Assistance	No	Yes
Division R - Arts and Recreational Services	Partial	Yes
Division R - Arts and Recreational Services Group 892 - Museums and Group 892 - Parks & Gardens	No	Yes
Division S - Other Services - Subdivision 94 (Repair and Maintenance)	Yes	Yes
Division S - Other Services - Group 951, 952, 953 (Other Personal Services)	Yes	Yes
Division S - Other Services - Group 954 (Religious Services)	No	No
Division S - Other Services - Group 955 (Civic, Professional & Other Interest Group Services)	No	No
Division S - Other Services - Subdivision 96 (Private households employing staff)	No	No

DATA DETAIL

Conceptual framework

Conceptually, the BCS includes all 'economically active' businesses

or business entities that have registered for an Australian Business Number (ABN), and have an active tax role; ie. remit GST for the BLD and Income Tax Withholding (ITW) for the population estimates. Further scoping is determined using the Standard Economic Classifications of Australia (SESCA) and the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC).

As the focus of this survey is on the market sector of the economy, it includes all business sizes- small, medium and large. Large businesses do not contribute to the BLD but are included in population and cross-sectional estimates. Non-employing businesses, such as sole proprietorships and partnerships, are included in the BLD component. The survey excludes some industries, mainly because they are dominated by government enterprises or classified as non profit institutions serving households, which are less important from an industry policy viewpoint.

Main outputs

There will be two distinct streams of output for the BCS - longitudinal unit record level (BLD) and population/cross sectional estimates.

The BLD will include characteristics data and other linked data, e.g. BIT, BAS, Trade and the resultant CURF(s) will provide a longitudinal view of small/medium business.

Population estimates for data collected in the BCS will be produced for all business sizes. This will include the cross-classification of some outputs by innovator status; degree of foreign ownership and broadband use. In alternate years detailed population estimates for Innovation and Business Use of Information Technology will be produced (some of these will be cross-classified with other indicators collected on the form).

Two form types were introduced for the first time in the 2006-07 BCS. There will now be a long form for the component of the sample that contributes to the production of population estimates and a short form for units included in the BLD only (these are predominantly units in the Agriculture, Forest and Fishing Division and non-employing businesses across all industries).

Classifications

The standard classifications used for the survey are

ANZSIC 06

Size of business (based on reported employment) in standard ranges

Size of business (based on income)

Other concepts (summary)

Concepts relating to Innovation are sourced from "Oslo Manual, Guidelines for Collecting and Interpreting Innovation Data (Third Edition, 2005" published by the OECD.

GEOGRAPHIC DETAIL

Australia

Comments and/or Other Regions

The sample is designed to produce efficient estimates for industry and employment size, therefore it does not provide quality estimates for states/territories. As estimates may not reflect change over time for a selected state/territory or adequately enable comparison between states/territories, they are not available.

COLLECTION FREQUENCY

Annually

Frequency comments

COLLECTION HISTORY

The BCS replaces three previously separate collections [survey component of the Business Longitudinal Database (BLD), Business Use of Information Technology (BUI) and the Innovation Survey] and provides capacity to collect topical characteristics/activity information on a user pays basis.

The Business Characteristics Survey, as a survey component of the BLD, evolved from the Growth and Performance Survey (GAPS). The GAPS was user funded, and was conducted from 1994-1995 to 1997-1998 inclusive.

DATA AVAILABILITY

Yes

Data availability comments

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Business Events Venues Survey

Page tools:

NAME OF ORGANISATION

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

OVERVIEW

The business events industry operates venues to support conferences, seminars, workshops, colloquia, conventions, exhibitions, and other events (such as incentives and business lunches/dinners). Such events are designed to enhance the development of the industries and associations which host them and to provide a means of sharing knowledge and information.

Business events have significant economic impact in their own right and are sought after by private and government agencies in the cities or regions in which they are held. They generate significant economic activity which would not otherwise occur in the cities and regions in which they are held: these include direct inputs such as registration fees, accommodation, meals and beverages, transport, entertainment, shopping, and in the process employment is created. In 1999 the Bureau of Tourism Research completed a study of the Australian meetings and exhibitions industry sector which suggested that basic statistics on the structure and operations of the events industry were not available. The BTR study provided some basis upon which to estimate the economic activity of the events venue industry, however it revealed significant gaps in the information available on the industry. This Business Events Venues Survey attempts to fill some of those gaps.

PURPOSE

The survey collects data which will provide information on the types of events held, the financial operations of the industry in terms of

income and expenditure and the capacity and use of events venues. This will inform major stakeholders including industry associations (e.g. the Business Events Council of Australia, Meetings Industry Association of Australia, and Exhibition and Event Association of Australia), other ABS statistical collection areas, government agencies and the business establishments operating in the industry. It will also provide information (such as comparative size of operations and profitability) to inform decisions made by business establishments who wish to enter the industry.

SCOPE

The scope of the collection includes all businesses operating in 2000-2001 within Australia which provided venue facilities and services in support of business events. Venues included within the scope of the collection must meet the following criteria:

- able to provide for venue facilities for 500 or more delegates or attendees
- in both plenary (whole of conference) and multi-location concurrent (ie "break-out") sessions
- whose main activity is business events (as opposed to social or entertainment)

For the purpose of the collection business events include those of a commercial, financial, technology and scientific nature. (It excludes venues which have as their predominant events activity social and entertainment events).

The final collection frame was developed using information obtained from industry associations, from convention/conference bureaux in each State and Territory, and from published lists of venues marketed on the World Wide Web and in published directory services of telecommunications agencies (eg Yellow pages). The frame was developed with the assistance of the Business Events Council of Australia (BECA) which is the peak consultative body for the industry.

DATA DETAIL

Conceptual framework

Not applicable

Main outputs

Business establishments which provide facilities and services in support of business events (conferences, meetings, exhibitions).

Counts of the following:

- number of establishments providing venues and other facilities

- for business events
- employment
- capacity and usage including space (area) of venues, type and number of events held, number of delegates/attendees

Estimates of:

- income and expenses
- operating profit before tax, operating profit margin, industry value added
- selected operating ratios, eg: labour costs per employee, venue hire to total income, venue hire income per sq. metre, attendees per event

State summary data will be made available for selected key indicators (eg number of establishments, total space, number of events held, total income).

Data sets will be cross-classified by type of venue.

Classifications

Standard reference classifications are not applicable to this collection. Questions used on the survey questionnaire (where applicable) comply with ABS economic survey standards

Other concepts (summary)

The following other key terms and concepts are applicable to this collection:

Types of events:

- Meetings, conferences and conventions: All off site gatherings, held in commercial venue space, which consist of more than 15 people. This would also involve congresses, seminars, workshops, symposiums, and associated gatherings that bring together people for a common purpose.
- Exhibitions - An event that brings together suppliers of products, equipment, and services in an environment where they can display their products and services.
- Other events - This includes weddings, graduations, parties etc.

Employment (Permanent, Casual, Casuals sourced from other businesses)

Source of Income

Expense items

Capacity and usage of facilities (including floor space, number of lettable rooms)

Number of events

Delegate/Attendee days (Total number of delegates/attendees attending x days attended)

GEOGRAPHIC DETAIL

Australia
New South Wales
Victoria
Queensland
South Australia
Western Australia
Tasmania
Northern Territory
ACT

Comments and/or Other Regions

Not applicable

COLLECTION FREQUENCY

Adhoc

Frequency comments

The collection will be conducted once as a one-off survey, with no current intention to repeat it. The collection will be conducted by means of a mail-out questionnaire and after processing the results will be released in standard ABS products. The collection reference period is 2000-2001 and the release of final results is expected in June 2002.

COLLECTION HISTORY

The survey is a limited scope census of all business events venues. It will be collected under the authority of the Census and Statistics Act 1905. The survey frame was developed with the assistance of the Business Events Council of Australia (BECA) which is the peak consultative body for the industry. Included within the scope of the collection will be venues which meet the following criteria:

- able to provide for venue facilities for 500 or more delegates or attendees
- in both plenary (whole of conference) and multi-location concurrent sessions
- whose predominant activity is business events (as opposed to social or entertainment)

There will be approximately 120-140 venues surveyed in this collection: these include "stand-alone" business establishments whose sole activity (and source of income) is to provide convention and conference facilities, and other business establishments who provide such facilities alongside other products or services (eg major hotels, casinos, sporting facilities etc with facilities to host business events). The collection will be conducted once as a one-off survey, with no current intention to repeat it. The collection will be conducted by means of a mail-out questionnaire and after processing the results

will be released in standard ABS products.

The main results will include information about:

- the number of establishments providing venues and other facilities for business events
- employment
- income and expenses
- operating profit and other business ratios
- capacity and usage including space (area) of venues, type and number of events held, number of delegates/attendees,
- State data
- selected ratios including labour costs, venue income by size of venue, attendees per event

The following is a timetable of significant events in the development of the collection:

Jul 2000 submission received from the Business Events Council of Australia

Aug-Nov 2000 discussions between ABS & BECA about the feasibility and scope of a Business Events Venues Survey

Jan 2001 ABS management approval for the survey to be conducted within the Service Industries Surveys program

Feb-June 2001 development of collection: forms design, forms testing, finalisation of scope, frame, questionnaire

Aug 2001 despatch of forms

Sep 2001-May 2002 processing of survey data

June 2002 release of final results

DATA AVAILABILITY

Yes

Data availability comments

Data available in publication: Business Events Venues Industry, Australia (cat. no. 8566.0)

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Business Expectations Survey

Page tools:

NAME OF ORGANISATION

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

OVERVIEW

The Business Expectations Survey (BES) is a quarterly survey which provides data on the expectations of businesses in both the short (next three months) and medium terms (the current quarter of the following year) for a range of indicators (operating income, selling prices, profit, capital expenditure, stocks, employment, wage and salary expenses, other 'labour' expenses and other expenses). The BES samples at the MU level for businesses in all industries except agriculture, forestry and fishing; general government; and private households. Expectations are provided by respondents as percentage changes between a constant period and two future periods. Expectations are published at an aggregate level as weighted net balances or expected aggregate changes, with the expected aggregate change being the preferred expectations measure. These data are classified by industry, business size and State or Territory.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the survey is to:

1. provide more accurate and reliable statistical information to forecast future Australian business activity than the information currently available from other sources (private sector surveys provide qualitative indicators - net balances - while the BES provides a quantitative indicator - expected aggregate change) and
2. ensure the objectivity, relevance and timeliness of these

statistics.

SCOPE

The scope of the BES survey is all business units in the Australian economy except for :

- Management units belonging to the following ANZSIC divisions/subdivisions;
 - Division A Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
 - Division M Government Administration and Defence
 - Subdivision 97 Private Households Employing Staff
- Non-employing businesses in all other industries, i.e. businesses which have not registered as group employers with the ATO (Australian Taxation Office); and
- Businesses classified to the General Government sector. Note: government-owned Public Trading Enterprises are included.

DATA DETAIL

Conceptual framework

Economic forecasting relies on information from a range of sources about trends in the economy and its component sectors. The measure of business expectations is a leading economic indicator and an important source of such information. Business expectation surveys have increasingly been accepted in Australia as providing a guide to likely developments as perceived by business decision-makers, perceptions which can become self-fulfilling because of the powerful role of expectations in shaping economic behaviour. In 1992, the Government funded the ABS to develop a comprehensive and statistically sound survey which would be able to deliver a quantitative measure of expected economic activity for a range of business performance indicators.

Main outputs

The results from the BES are published every quarter in Australian Business Expectations (ABS Cat No 5250.0)

The BES is the largest and most comprehensive survey of its type conducted in Australia and is the only survey which provides both a qualitative indicator of business confidence (a weighted net balance) and a quantitative measure of expected change (a weighted aggregate) for a range of business performance indicators.

The BES publication gives detailed information by size of business, industry and state, for the short term (the next quarter) and the medium term (current quarter next year).

The survey outputs expected aggregate changes (expressed as a percentage) in a range of economic indicator items for two periods of time in the future. The items collected include operating income, selling prices, total wage and salary expenses, other labour expenses, all other expenses, stocks, profit, employment and capital expenditure. Data is collected for the following quarter and the current quarter of the following year. Accuracy of the results is aimed at the lowest possible variance based on a sample size of approximately 3500 units. Results of each quarters survey are released prior to the commencement of the reference quarter.

Classifications

BES data is presented by three main classifications: ANZSIC, business size and State.

ANZSIC

The BES publication (see above) presents statistics classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) (Cat No 1292.0). Each statistical unit selected in the survey is classified to a single industry. The industry allocated is based on an estimate of the primary income earning activity of the management unit irrespective of whether a range of activities or a single activity is undertaken by the unit. Data from BES can generally be provided for ANZSIC Division and subdivision.

BES collects data from employing businesses in all industries and sectors of the Australian economy except

- agriculture, forestry and fishing;
- general government; and
- private households

Business Size

Data is classified by three business sizes:

- Small (less than 20 employees, except for manufacturers where it is less than 100);
- Medium (20 to 99 employees, except for manufacturers where it is 100 to 599 employees);
- Large (100 or more employees, except for manufacturers where it is 600 or more employees).

State

- Statistics are published for each State of Australia, other than the Northern Territory and ACT, and for Australia as a whole. For

large and many medium-sized businesses the State of selection reflects the head office of the Australian-wide unit, and therefore to obtain State expectations data a synthetic estimation process is used in which sales expectations for each State/Territory are estimated by applying the proportion of a business' economic activity contributed by each State to the benchmark and attributing the same, i.e. Australian-level sales expectation, to each State in which the business operates. To facilitate this process selected businesses are required to provide the percentage of total business activity in each State or Territory.

- State data is subject to a greater degree of variance than the Australian data.

Other concepts (summary)

Glossary of terms used in Australian Business Expectations:

Capital expenditure The expected change in the value of capital expenditure in new tangible assets.

Inventories The expected change in the book value of inventories between the end of the collection quarter and the end of the reference periods.

Non-wage labour expenses The expected change in the total amount of employment related expenses not paid directly to employees.

Examples of these expenses include payroll tax, worker's compensation and superannuation.

Operating income The expected change in operating income derived from the sale of goods or the provision of services by a business in terms of value.

Financial institutions report on the expected change in gross interest income plus fees and commissions.

Non-profit or charitable organisations report on the expected change in fees received for services, donations from the public and government grants and subsidies.

Other operating expenses The expected change in the total amount of all expenses which are not classified as labour expenses.

Examples of these expenses include overheads, advertising, raw materials and packaging and handling.

Paid persons working The expected change in the number of paid persons working. Where part time or casual employees are involved employers are requested to convert to a full-time equivalent. It should be noted that most other ABS series which provide data on paid persons working do not use a full-time equivalent measure.

Profit Profit is a derived item based on the present trading performance of a business and the expected changes to the level of sales of goods and services and the sum of all expense items.

The difference between the new benchmarks for the sales of goods and services and the sum of all expenses items (the sum of total wage expense, non-wage labour expense and all other operating expenses) as determined by the responses received, the Economic Activity Survey benchmarks for those items and an indicator of present trading performance (cost/income ratio) are used to determine the expected change for profit for the reference periods. Because of reporting difficulties experienced with the cost/income ratios, caution should be exercised in interpreting profit expectations.

Reference Periods There are two reference periods surveyed each quarter:

- Short term (eg if the current quarter is the March quarter 2000, then the quarter being surveyed is the June quarter 2000); and
- Medium term (eg if the current quarter is the March quarter 2000, then the quarter being surveyed is the March quarter 2001).

Selling prices The expected change in the unit price of goods sold or services provided by the business. Where a business sells a range of products or services a representative product or service is used. Financial institutions should report on interest rates, services and commissions charged.

Businesses providing services should report on contract rates, hourly rates or ticket prices.

Community organisations should report on rates or fees levied.

The benchmark for weighting the selling prices response is derived from associating selling prices with total expenses.

(Please note that on the actual form data is collected for the item

Price of goods sold and/or services provided).

State Information State information has been derived for businesses in the survey which operate in more than one State. This has been achieved by:

- applying a weight (the proportion of a business' economic activity undertaken in each State) to the benchmarks for that business to arrive at potentially eight different benchmarks for each business performance indicator; and
- applying the overall percentage change in the business performance indicators obtained from the survey to each of the State benchmarks for each business performance indicator.

Total operating expenses This is a derived estimate from the weighted response for the total of wage, non-wage labour and all other expenses.

Total wage expenses The expected change in the total amount of direct wage and salaries paid to employees.

GEOGRAPHIC DETAIL

Australia

New South Wales
Victoria
Queensland
South Australia
Western Australia
Tasmania
Northern Territory
ACT

Comments and/or Other Regions

Most data is published at the Australian total level. Some data is published at a State level.

COLLECTION FREQUENCY

Quarterly

Frequency comments

The collection provides both short and medium term business expectations. The short term expectation compares the current quarter with the following quarter, while the medium term expectation compares the current quarter with the corresponding quarter of the following year.

For example, if the current quarter is the Quarter ending December 2002, then the short term expectation measures the expected change between the three months ending 31 December 2002 and the three months ending 31 March 2003. The medium term expectation measures the change between the three months ending 31 December 2002 and the three months ending 31 December 2003.

COLLECTION HISTORY

11/1991 At an ASAC meeting, representatives of Treasury highlighted a demand for expectations data to Mr McLennan in discussions. A week later, Treasury wrote to the ABS proposing an investigation into the feasibility of the ABS conducting a business expectations survey that is more 'statistically sound' than the private expectations surveys available at the time.

8/1992 The funding of a survey of the expectations of Australian businesses was announced in the 1992-93 Federal Budget.

2/1993-3/1993 Pilot study of approx. 350 businesses was conducted.

5/1993-7/1993 Second pilot study (full dress-rehearsal) was conducted.

8/1993-9/1993 First official BES conducted in respect of the December quarter 1993 - September quarter 1994.

25/11/1993 Results of the first BES released as experimental estimates.

1995 BES nominated for evaluation under the Treasury Portfolio

Evaluation Plan.

9/1996 Evaluation Final Report completed.

9/1996 Paper on BES presented by Alan Mackay at the Conference of Economists.

10-11/1996 95 businesses visited to discuss BES incorporating a PES.

1997 New form design incorporating current quarter data tested and accepted by providers.

8/1998 A pilot test was conducted in which a question on Current Quarter Expectations was included on the usual BES form. This was a mail-based pilot test of around 500 businesses, with information on current quarter expectations being asked for the 3 months ending 30/9/98.

2/1999 The proposal to collect current quarter expectations data was rejected.

7/2000 PES conducted involving 175 businesses.

9/2001 BES PES re Evaluation of changes resulting from 2000 PES.

3/2002 BES PES on Profit question on BES form.

12/2002 The Collection conducted during October and November 2002 and released in December 2002 (March quarter 2003 and December quarter 2003 expectations) will be the final quarter that BES will be conducted after a decision to discontinue the survey. This decision was made after a review of forward work program priorities for Economic Statistics.

DATA AVAILABILITY

Yes

Data availability comments

Data is currently published each quarter in Australian Business Expectations - ABS Catalogue No 5250.0. The amount of data collected from the Survey of Business Expectations is much greater than the data contained in the publication. Subject to the ABS provisions for maintaining the confidentiality of respondents and the information they provide, more detailed information by industry and size of business may be made available on request as a special data service.

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Business Generosity Survey

Page tools:

NAME OF ORGANISATION

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

OVERVIEW

The Business Generosity Survey (BGS) is a user-funded survey, collecting previously unavailable information on what could be described as "business giving". In the opinion of the survey's main client and sponsor, the Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership (CBP), previous similar ABS surveys did not provide adequate coverage of all forms of business giving, having concentrated primarily on sponsorships of a monetary nature. A key element of the BGS therefore was the need to collect not only monetary values, but also the "dollar equivalent values" of any goods or services components associated with any business giving arrangements.

In early 2001 the ABS investigated the feasibility of conducting such as survey in conjunction with the 2000/01 Economic Activity Survey. It was ultimately found that the survey was feasible, and BGS survey forms were subsequently despatched to a sample of approximately 9,000 businesses in August 2001.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the BGS is to provide estimates, in dollar terms, of the overall level of support given to the community sector by the business sector. The survey will also provide some indication of the barriers to business giving.

SCOPE

The scope of the BGS is similar to that for the EAS collection, except for the exclusion from the BGS of Religious Organisations (ANZSIC class 9610). The scope of the BGS is therefore all management units on the ABS Business Register except those classified to either General Government or ANZSIC subdivisions 01-04 (Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing), 81-82 (Government Administration and Defence) and 97 (Private Households Employing Staff).

DATA DETAIL

Conceptual framework

The main objectives of the Business Generosity Survey (BGS) are to provide estimates of the overall level of business support for the community sector, and to produce previously unavailable benchmark data on the level and nature of business giving across the economy. The estimates will serve as a benchmark for comparing growth or otherwise in the level of business support for the community sector across the economy in future years. The questions asked on the survey form are designed to capture the monetary value of donations, sponsorship and other business giving arrangements in the form of money, goods and services.

Main outputs

No decision has yet been made re the main outputs from the BGS. It is anticipated that a hardcopy publication will be released in mid 2002, containing broad level aggregates.

Classifications

The BGS collection is supplementary to the EAS collection. As a result, it is an ESG integrated collection and wherever possible uses standard classifications for industry (ANZSIC - the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification), sector (SISCA - the Standard Institutional Sector Classification of Australia), organisation (TOLO - Type of Legal Organisation), units (MU - Management Unit) and data item definitions. The use of standard classifications will enable data from the BGS to be comparable across ESG collections.

The BGS collection uses non-standard definitions to classify the various types of business giving, ie. Donations, Sponsorships and Business to community projects.

Other concepts (summary)

The ABS standard definitions of Donations and Sponsorship were used in the initial testing phase for the BGS. However, these

definitions had to be refined following feasibility and pilot testing. It was apparent that the motivational aspect associated with donations made by businesses were not captured in the earlier definitions of business giving. For example, a business may show support for an organisation by purchasing goods or services at a cost above the usual market rate - businesses clearly regarded such purchases as donations, even though they received something in return. Examples of this would include the purchase of fund-raising pens from the RSPCA, 'red noses' from SIDS Australia or a table at a benefit dinner for the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute.

Apart from Donations and Sponsorship, a third type of business giving, Business to community projects, was identified. Such arrangements typically involve the transfer of money, goods or services from a business to a non-related community organisation or individual in exchange for what could be described as "strategic business benefits", such as enhanced community reputation or improved staff expertise.

GEOGRAPHIC DETAIL

Australia

Comments and/or Other Regions

COLLECTION FREQUENCY

Once Only

Frequency comments

The Business Generosity Survey (BGS) is a one-off user funded survey, being conducted as a supplementary survey in conjunction with the annual Economic Activity Survey (EAS). The BGS may be conducted again within 3-4 years if there is sufficient user demand and user funding.

COLLECTION HISTORY

11/1998 In his keynote address at the 1998 ACOSS National Congress, the Prime Minister said that "it has been estimated that Australian business contributes less than 5 per cent of the total funds available to the not-for-profit sector", and that he would "... like to see many more businesses contribute to the welfare of their community through cash grants, matching gifts, gifts in kind and other activities ...". The Prime Minister also said that "the spirit of corporate citizenship suggests that a company that derives profit from the

community has an obligation to contribute to its development".

11/1999 The Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership (CBP) was formed and met with the Prime Minister for the first time. The CBP Board consists of senior Government representatives, as well as prominent business and community leaders. The stated aim of the CBP is to encourage and enhance partnerships between the corporate and community sectors.

07/2000 The ABS was approached by the CBP, seeking ABS involvement in a user-funded survey on "business giving". The proposed survey would provide an estimate of the overall level of business support for the community sector, in terms of dollars given and also the types of organisations that benefited from business giving. It was agreed that the ABS would undertake the necessary development work, with a view to conducting the actual survey in conjunction with the 2000-01 Economic Activity Survey (EAS).

09/2000 The Acting Australian Statistician gave in-principle approval for the proposed survey.

11/2000 Two strategy papers were prepared by Economy Wide Statistics (EWS) Section and presented to ABS senior management.

04/2001 EWS prepared a draft survey form after consulting with the CBP and Economic Standards Section on concepts and definitions. Observational studies were conducted to determine the level of provider understanding of the concepts and definitions used in the draft survey form.

05/2001 A pilot study of 100 Management Units was conducted. Feasibility testing was completed and a report recommending that the BGS be conducted was presented to ABS senior management.

06/2001 The ABS and CBP agreed that the BGS should proceed. The BGS was tabled in both houses of Federal Parliament.

08/2001 The BGS was despatched in conjunction with the 2000-01 Economic Activity Survey.

DATA AVAILABILITY

Yes

Data availability comments

Data from the BGS was released on 27 June 2002, following the release of preliminary data from the 2000/01 EAS collection. Results from the BGS were made available via a hardcopy publication (Cat. No. 8157.0).

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Business Growth and Performance Survey

Page tools:

NAME OF ORGANISATION

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

OVERVIEW

This survey is an annual collection of management units collecting data about firm performance and the factors which affect firm performance. The scope of the survey is all employing businesses, excluding the following industries - Agriculture, forestry and fishing, Electricity, gas and water supply, Communication services, Government administration and defence, Education, Health and community services, Libraries, Museums and Parks and gardens. Data are classified by industry and size of firm. Some data are available by State.

A key feature of this survey is that it is a longitudinal survey (i.e. in the main, the same sample is used for each of the years of the survey). This enables firms with similar characteristics to be compared and contrasted with other firms with different characteristics, both at the same time point and over time.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the survey is to detect those factors which have an impact on firm growth and performance and to measure that impact. This information is keenly sought by small business policy makers and researchers both in Australia and around the world. The information will also enable a much more detailed analysis of where employment growth occurs in the Australian economy, by which type of firms and how widespread this growth is.

SCOPE

The scope of the survey includes businesses of all industries and sizes. However, the ABS Business Register generally excludes non-employing businesses, and so these have been excluded from this survey. The survey also excludes some industries, mainly because these are dominated by Government enterprises, which are of lesser importance from an industry policy viewpoint. With a limited sample size, it was therefore thought better to exclude these industries and use the available sample in those industries with more policy interest.

DATA DETAIL

Conceptual framework

Conceptually this survey should include firms of all industries and sizes. However, the ABS Business Register generally excludes non-employing businesses, and so these have been excluded from this survey. The survey also excludes some industries, mainly because these are dominated by Government enterprises, which are of lesser importance from an industry policy viewpoint. With a limited sample size, it was therefore thought better to exclude these industries and use the available sample in those industries with more policy interest.

Main outputs

Data is made available to users in a number of ways. The ABS releases information in its annual release of Small and Medium Enterprises (ABS Cat No. 8141.0); in addition the funder of the survey (the Department of Workplace Relations and Small Business - DWRSB) releases a range of statistical and research publications. ABS also provides an analysis service to other users, which is partially funded by DWRSB as an aid to encourage analysis by the research community. Each year an agreed work schedule is drawn up with the client which outlines costs and target dates for milestones including the provision of output. The target for the first release of data is the September following the enumeration.

Classifications

As the survey is longitudinal, and with an extensive list of possible explanatory variables for firm performance, the list of possible classifications is extensive. The main ones, however, are: industry, size, age of firm, growth status, innovation status and export status.

Other concepts (summary)

Growth of firms is defined in terms of both employment and output. Size of firm is also defined into micro, other small, medium and large

firms.

GEOGRAPHIC DETAIL

Australia
New South Wales
Victoria
Queensland
South Australia
Western Australia
Tasmania
Northern Territory
ACT

Comments and/or Other Regions

No finer geographic breakdown is available.

COLLECTION FREQUENCY

Annually

Frequency comments

Collection runs from 1994-95 to 1997-98

COLLECTION HISTORY

The sample was designed and conducted for the first time in respect of 1994-95. 13,000 management units were selected for the first part of a 2 phase design. The second phase includes a sample of only half that size. The main reason for the 2 phase design was so that the second phase could incorporate innovation status, export status and growth status as design variables. These data are not available on the ABS Business register and hence could not be incorporated into the first phase design.

The sample size in future years will continue to be at about the 1995-96 level.

DATA AVAILABILITY

Yes

Data availability comments

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Business Indicators Survey

Page tools:

NAME OF ORGANISATION

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

OVERVIEW

The Quarterly Economic Activity Survey is a quarterly survey which produces estimates of profits, selected income items including sales, selected expenses including labour costs, and inventories, by private businesses in Australia.

PURPOSE

This survey provides key measures on the performance of Australian industry, and is an important component of the quarterly National Accounts. The data contributes to the production of the income-based and production-based measures of Gross Domestic Product, in particular, estimates of gross operating surplus of private non-financial corporations, the increase in the book value of non-farm inventories, and industry gross value added. The data are used by economic analysts in the private and public sectors.

SCOPE

The following industries are in scope of the Quarterly Economic Activity Survey from the March quarter 2001:

- B. Mining;
- C. Manufacturing;
- D. Electricity, Gas and Water supply;
- E. Construction;
- F. Wholesale trade;
- G. Retail trade;
- H. Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants;
- I. Transport and Storage;
- J. Communication Services;

K. Finance and Insurance (excluding ANZSIC Classes 7310, 7411 and 7412).
L. Property and Business Services;
N. Education;
O. Health and community services;
P. Cultural and Recreational Services;
Q. Personal and other services (excluding ANZSIC Subdivision 97).

DATA DETAIL

Conceptual framework

Standard ABS integrated economic statistics framework.

Main outputs

Population:

All management units in the private sector of the Australian economy, except for Agriculture, forestry and fishing; General government; Life insurance; Superannuation funds; and, Private households employing staff.

Characteristics of interest:

Financial data particularly sales, labour costs, inventories and profits.

Type of statistics:

Quarterly movements and level estimates; a limited number of ratios; original, seasonally adjusted and trend series; and, chain volume and current price estimates.

Data breakdowns:

Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) sub-division for sales, labour costs, inventories and profits; state/territory for sales and wages and salaries; and, institutional sector for use in the National Accounts.

Classifications

Industry: Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 1993 (ANZSIC)

Institutional sector: Standard Institutional Sector Classification of Australia (SISCA)

Other concepts (summary)

Not applicable

GEOGRAPHIC DETAIL

1. National & State/Territory\1.01 Australia

1. National & State/Territory\1.02 All States & Territories

Comments and/or Other Regions

Only Income from Sales of Goods and Services, and Wages and Salaries are collected/available by state/territory.

COLLECTION FREQUENCY

Quarterly

Frequency comments

COLLECTION HISTORY

The Quarterly Economic Activity Survey (QEAS) involves the integration of samples, questionnaires, data processing and data dissemination for the surveys of Company Profits (SCP); Inventories, Sales and Services (ISS); and the private sector component of Employment and Earnings (SEE).

From September quarter 1999 to June quarter 2000, large businesses common to the existing SCP, ISS and New Capital Expenditure surveys, were progressively included in QEAS. As these businesses were included in the existing surveys, there were no changes to sample design, processing and estimation methods, or the data released. The survey was essentially a single collection vehicle for these units.

From March quarter 2001, the survey was extended to small and medium businesses. To ensure that the impact of QEAS on time series is minimised, SCP, ISS and SEE were conducted in parallel, with the March quarter estimates generated from these surveys and not QEAS. SCP and ISS were discontinued after the March quarter 2001, with QEAS being the sole source of information for data previously collected in these surveys. The existing publications continued up to and including the September quarter 2001. The private sector component of SEE was discontinued after the December quarter 2001. From the March quarter 2002, outputs from QEAS included labour cost items currently included in the private sector component of SEE. From March quarter 2001, the Survey of New Capital Expenditure has run separately to QEAS, and units selected in both surveys will receive separate survey forms.

DATA AVAILABILITY

Yes

Data availability comments

The Inventories and Sales, Selected Industries (Cat. No. 5629.0) and Company Profits (Cat. No. 5651.0) publications were released up to and including the September quarter 2001. Data for the September quarter 2001 was reissued in a new publication - Business Indicators (Cat. No. 5676.0) - and it replaced the previous publications from the December quarter 2001.

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Businesses Involved in Water Related Activities in SA (Survey of)

Page tools:

NAME OF ORGANISATION

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

OVERVIEW

The survey was commissioned by the South Australian Government to measure the impact of outsourcing of water supply and sewerage disposal.

PURPOSE

To measure growth in exports (interstate and overseas) by the SA Water Industry.

SCOPE

Businesses involved in water related activities - establishments located in SA participating in the provision of goods and services to water supply, sewerage and drainage services within SA, interstate or overseas.

DATA DETAIL

Conceptual framework

The survey collects statistics relating to the sales of goods and services for South Australian businesses participating in or intending to participate in the water, sewerage and drainage related activities of South Australia..

Main outputs

Sales of goods & services by destination - interstate, overseas, total.

Number of businesses trading interstate and overseas.

Classifications

The Australian New Zealand Standard Industry Classification is available at the Division or one digit level.

Other concepts (summary)

Statistical unit - The survey uses the establishment as the statistical unit for which data are reported. The establishment is defined as the smallest organisational unit within a business within a State or Territory for which annual details of income, expenses, stocks and employment are maintained. In most cases an establishment equates to a single business location.

Scope - Businesses involved in water related activities are defined as those business establishments resident in South Australia identified as participating in or intending to participate in the provision of goods and/or services to water supply, sewerage and drainage services within South Australia, interstate or overseas.

Valuation - Data are collected on an accrual accounting basis.

GEOGRAPHIC DETAIL

South Australia

Comments and/or Other Regions

Management units with establishments operating in SA are in scope.

COLLECTION FREQUENCY

Adhoc

Frequency comments

Dependant on user funding - not anticipated that it will be conducted again.

COLLECTION HISTORY

Collected for 1992/93, 1993/94, 1994/5.

The survey is unlikely to be conducted again by the ABS.

DATA AVAILABILITY

Yes

Data availability comments

The survey has ceased and final data for 1994/95 was published in catalogue number 1352.4.

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